

**Marc J. Mataya**  
4935 Prentice Place  
Charlotte, NC 28210-2917

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

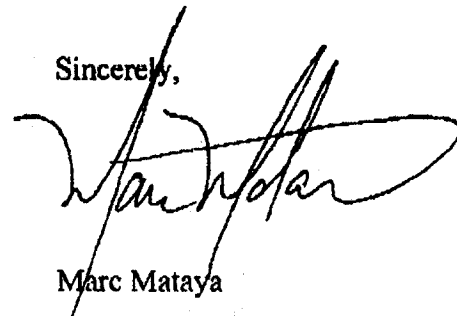
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to explain my opinions regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I feel that the settlement agreement reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft was fair and reasonable, and was extensive enough for nine states to agree to. Microsoft has been punished for building a better mousetrap, and pricing it lower than the competition. Although I do not agree with every decision that Microsoft has made, I do understand wanting to use your successful product to launch more successful products. Three years of litigation has called this illegal. Obviously, there is a limit to success under free enterprise, and that limit is becoming the industry standard.

Despite my views, I do understand the pleas of the competition. I also feel that Microsoft has gone above and beyond in its concessions. Under the agreement, Microsoft has changed the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software. It has agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software that competes with programs included within Windows. Also, Microsoft has agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers, who account for the majority of PC sales.

In short, it is time to put this matter behind us. The sooner this case is settled, the sooner that the focus of the IT industry can return to innovation, rather than litigation. We must make certain that we continue to introduce advanced American technology to the world market, or risk losing our competitive advantage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Mataya', written over a horizontal line.

Marc Mataya